

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Conference builds church leadership

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

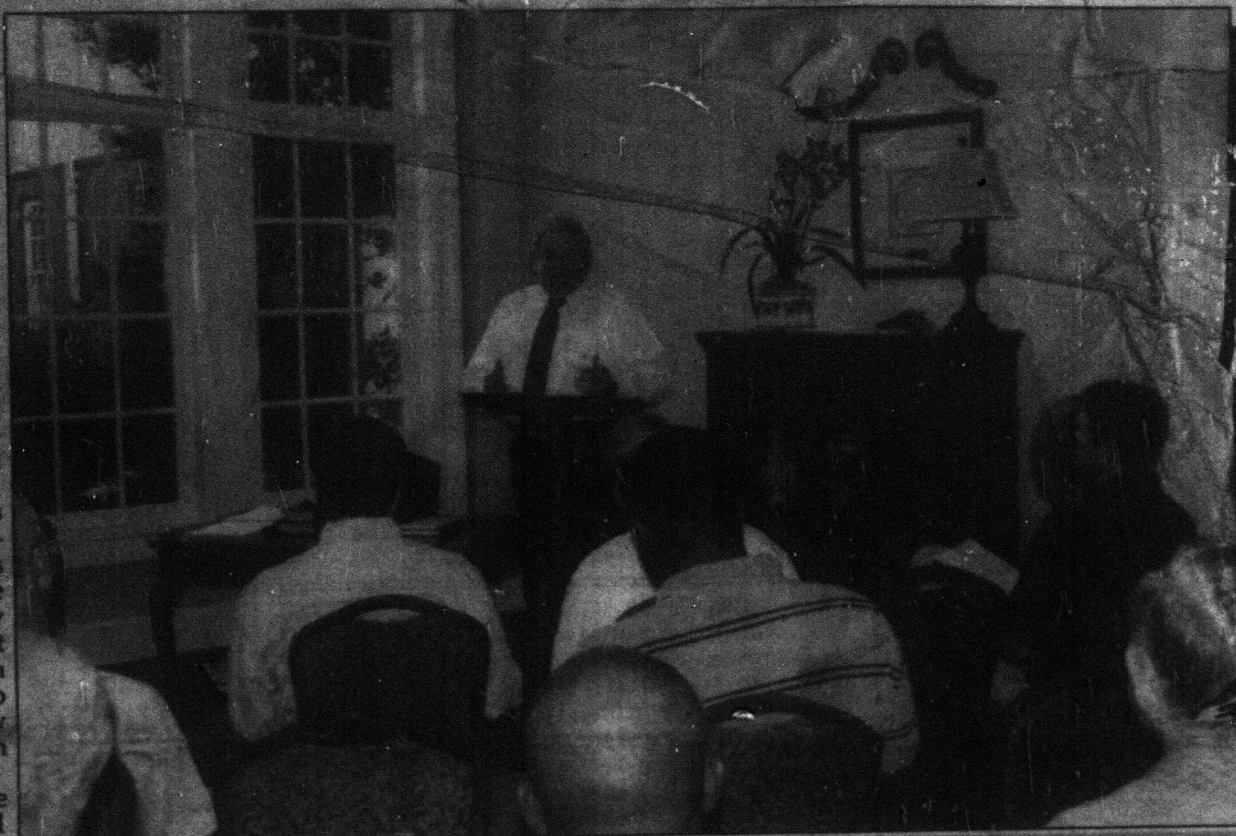
The 2009 Growing Churches conference, hosted by Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, drew participants from all over Mississippi for a two-day event designed to equip church leaders for ministry in Mississippi.

Held July 24-25, the event was a joint project between the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and approximately ten Mississippi Baptist associations.

"The conference was for all church leadership," said Marcus Peagler, director of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department (DFM) of the MBCB in Jackson. "The goal was to provide an opportunity to train every church leader under one roof."

"We designed the event to be for all local church leaders," said Don Hicks, consultant in the DFM department. "We had about 58 conference leaders presenting more than 200 conferences."

The DFM Department sponsors the conference annually. Since Hurricane Katrina, the conference has been in Tupelo twice and at First Church, Biloxi, last year. "It was a great success," Peagler said, "accomplishing what we wanted to accomplish."



GROWING A CHURCH - Mickey Dalrymple, pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus, leads conferees in dealing with How to Grow a Church in a Plateaued Area. The conference was one of approximately 200 offered during the Growing Churches conference in Tupelo July 24 - 25. (Photo by Tony Martin)

At press time, final attendance numbers were not available, but 260 participants had pre-registered prior to conference time, and preliminary numbers indicate more than 550 attending for the weekend.

"We have had a steering committee of about 20 people meeting monthly for the last 13 months," said Hicks. "That committee determined what classes to offer."

The conference began with a worship rally Friday night. Speakers included Jim Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer, and Mickey Dalrymple, pastor of Fairview Church, Columbus, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Graham Smith, director, MBCB Church Music department, led in worship.

Futral's theme interpretation message was drawn from 1 Corinthians 3:4-7.

Using the foundational idea of "increase," Futral stated that growth begins personally, extends powerfully, and recommends purposefully.

"If you aren't growing in the Lord," Futral said, "don't ask God for something to happen in your church that isn't happening in you."

Dalrymple's message drew from the Great Commission in Matthew 28.

"First, you have to win them," said Dalrymple. "We as Baptists have the 'go' down, but we are to make disciples, and that we don't always manage so well." He continued by saying that Mississippi

Baptists have to "wet" them, as in baptism, and finally "wean" them, to teach them to do church on their own.

"Anyone can win them if we will tell them," Dalrymple said.

The event included two Friday night sessions and three Saturday morning sessions. Some were repeated in order to give maximum opportunity for participants to attend the conferences.

Conferences were sorted into 19 categories: Adult/Sunday School/Small Groups; Children; Deacons; Discipleship; Family/Marriage; Financial/Legal Issues; Hispanic Ministry; Men's Ministry; Missional/Evangelism; Music; Pastoral Ministries; Personal Enrichment; Preschool; Singles; Special Needs Ministry; Senior Adults; Sunday School General Officers; Women's Ministry and WMU; and Youth. Conference leaders included state and local leaders, LifeWay consultants, and a host of other experts.

"It was encouraging to see so many participants," said Marc Howard, associational missions director for Lee/Itawamba Associations, and co-chair along with Tim Alexander, minister of education at Harrisburg Church, of the steering committee.

"It was great to see churches and individuals interested in growth. Even our local TV station covered the event," Howard said.

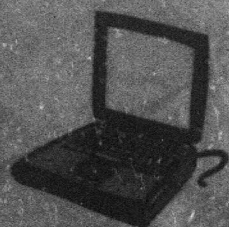
MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Ag Foundation to meet August 8 at First Church, Franklinton, La.

The Agricultural Development Foundation will meet beginning at 9:30 a.m. on August 8 at First Church of Franklinton, La. The speaker will be Steven Rubado, the country representative for the Asian Rural Life Development Foundation (ARLDF) in India. ARLDF is an international non-government organization based in the Philippines that does community-based development and disaster relief work throughout Asia. India's rural communities are some of the most poverty stricken and disaster affected in the entire world. ARLDF's work in that country is seeking to improve lives through transformation development that leads to communities experiencing abundant life. Rubado will discuss various initiatives that have been implemented to address issues such as poverty, malnutrition, poor access to clean drinking water, natural disasters, malaria, poor health care, etc. For more information, contact Joyce Watson at (601) 857-2831 or e-mail hwatson@aol.com.



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Why does the world hate us?

The world has always been a tough place for Christians. Jesus warned us of the consequences of following Him (Matt. 10:22; Luke 6:22). As it has been from the beginning, so it is today.

News reports indicate that a 33-year-old, North Korean mother of three was publicly executed before her family for the crime of giving away Bibles. She was apparently not a big-time Bible smuggler, but simply a believer who wanted to share the Good News with others as opportunities arose.

Not only was Ri Hyon Ok killed for her Bible offenses, her parents, husband, and children were condemned to the communist country's dreaded prison system. That's the rule in North Korea — if you offend the Stalinist regime, your family pays the price along with you.

Another Christian woman recently disappeared from the same area near the Chinese border, and her husband and children have also not been seen for some time. It is assumed that she suffered the same fate as Ri Hyon Ok, and that her family is now somewhere in the forlorn vastness of the North Korean gulag.

As evidenced by these and numerous other reports, it would seem an official crackdown on Christians is underway in North Korea. Reliable statistics on the closed country are hard to come by, but

observers believe there are less than 30,000 believers left in the country of 25 million people that was known not so long ago as the "Jerusalem of the East" for its widespread Christian practices.

That was then. Now there is reportedly a special prison camp in North Korea to which Christians are taken for exceptionally harsh treatment by the regime.

In the African nation of Somalia, the leader of a Muslim extremist group recently declared, "All Somali Christians must be killed according to the Islamic law." Sheikh Nur Barut also said sharia (Islamic) law does not recognize Christian converts and that "we will slaughter them."

True to his word, an Italian nun known as the "Mother Teresa of Africa" for her thirty years of work in Somalia was murdered outside the children's hospital she founded. A British husband and wife helping to educate Somali children were gunned down in front of the school they started. There have been multiple reports of beheadings of Christians.

The rulers of that anarchic country have apparently set a goal of killing or driving out all Christians in the country, and they have largely succeeded.

Christians in the volatile Indian state of Orissa chose for the first time not to publicly celebrate Christmas last year, due to killings and persecutions perpetrated by Hindu extremists in the region. Christians are reportedly able to remain in their homes only if they convert to Hindu when extremist thugs show up at

their door. A Christian woman who was driven away but returned from a refugee camp was murdered in short order.

Why are practicing Christians seen as such a threat to so many who would use such extreme violence to silence them? The answer can be found in the Bible, and in history.

When people experience the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ, are baptized in His name, and filled with the Holy Spirit, they fear no earthly power. As a matter of fact, their boldness and righteousness become objects of fear. The enemies of the faith understand how the very name of Jesus can transform entire populations, if Christianity gets out of hand. That's why they are so quick to seek to snuff out Christianity wherever they can; they know what will happen if it's allowed to spread.

Even more so, Satan understands — and he'll use any weapon at this disposal to destroy us.

From our comfortable American churches, let us pray for those bold, righteous Christians around the world who already understand their fate and yet continue to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. From our secure homes, let us pray for their families, who are often also made to endure cruelty and suffering along with their offending relative. From deep within our souls, let us pray that Jesus will be glorified always and all ways, because we know evil will flee before His face.

After what Jesus did for us, we can do no less.

Recently I was startled as I watched a preview for the movie, *Orphan*, which opened in theaters on July 24. This horror movie is a fictional account of a couple who lost their unborn child and then decided to adopt a nine-year-old girl named Esther.

Soon after arriving at their home Esther goes crazy and begins attacking other children and her parents for unexplained reasons. The tagline for the movie seen on the previews and on posters is, "There is something wrong with Esther."

Granted, I'm not a fan of horror films, but this brief preview sickened me. My heart ached for any adopted children that may see this movie trailer. My concern is that adoptive children or children waiting to be adopted will face cruel jokes and ridicule from other children as a result of just seeing the previews.

I shudder to think that families considering adoption will be negatively influenced by unfounded fears.

I haven't seen the movie and I don't plan to. The preview alone is an affront to the dignity and respect due to orphans. I am not on a campaign against Hollywood, but I am on a campaign to advance the interests of orphaned children.

Some people may read this and say, "Relax, it's only a movie." Every day at the Florida

GUEST OPINION:



The real orphans need our help

By Jerry T. Haag, president
Florida Baptist Children's Homes
Lakeland, FL

Baptist Children's Homes, we see the tragedies of children who have been abandoned and abused. We see the faces of precious children who long for a loving forever family through adoption.

Consider that there are approximately 130,000 children in the United States waiting to be adopted, including 7,400 children in Florida. In addition, there are 133 million orphans worldwide.

Children come to the Florida Baptist Children's Homes for a variety of reasons, but all of the reasons are tragic. People need to understand that orphaned children are victims. They are victims of parents who have neglected them, abused them, or simply cannot care for them.

The children that are placed in our care face many challenges. Many of them, when they come to us, are behind in school, have limited social skills, and have deep feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. As ridiculous as it may seem, many children feel responsible for the tragedy of their

situation, further compounding their feelings of guilt and shame.

Our highly trained staff work very hard through proper care and counseling to help all of our children with their challenges. However, it is the grace of God working through our staff that truly changes and restores these children. God changes lives, and I am in the fortunate position to be able to witness this on a regular basis.

As Christians we should all see it as our duty to help look after

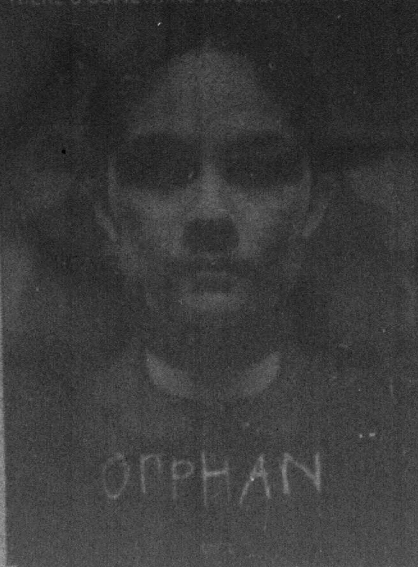
orphans (James 1:27) and to defend the cause of the fatherless (Isaiah 1:17). Consider the different ways that people can serve God through the ministry of caring for abused, neglected and orphaned children:

- Become an adoptive parent, especially to an older child or a sibling group.
- Become a foster parent as we need many more Christian foster homes.
- Volunteer at one of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes' campus locations, or at a children's home in your area.
- Support children's homes financially and with your prayers.
- Go with us to make a difference in the life of an orphan internationally.

Let us all rise up as the body of believers to provide loving care and support to orphans in whatever capacity God has enabled us. In this way we will truly be defending orphans from those that simply choose to exploit them for box office profits.

Haag's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. For information on the Baptist Children's Village in Mississippi, contact Rory Lee, executive director, P.O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027. Telephone: (601) 922-2242. E-mail: rlee@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ESTHER



Student missionaries injured in Mt. crash

BILLINGS, Mont. (BP) — Three brothers were among four student missionaries with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Innovator program who were injured July 21 when their SUV rolled over several times on Interstate 90 near Belgrade, Mt.

One of the brothers and the vehicle's driver remain in critical condition.

NAMB resort missionary Brad Lartigue, a local, full-time resort missionary for NAMB and the four students' supervisor, said 21-year-old Jeremy Vangsnes is still the most critically injured of the four. Vangsnes underwent a procedure on July 21 to relieve pressure on his brain and reduce swelling, Lartigue said.

The driver of the Jeep Cherokee, 21-year-old Scott Minear of Marietta, Ga., also remains in critical condition but an MRI on July 23 revealed no significant spinal or neck damage, Lartigue said. Minear, a University of Georgia junior, is conscious and wearing a "halo" medical device to restrict head movement.

Jeremy Vangsnes' two brothers, 23-year-old Dan and 19-year-old Ryan, also were in the SUV at the time of the accident. "Dan has had three surgeries since the accident but suffered no significant head injuries," Lartigue told Baptist Press. "Dan is talkative and lucid — he knows what happened."

Ryan required only stitches and was treated and released from Deaconess Hospital in Bozeman, Mt.

Innovator missionaries are self-funded student missionaries assigned by NAMB or a state Baptist Campus Ministry who are involved in resort min-

istry at various tourist venues throughout the United States.

The three brothers, residents of Spartanburg, S.C., were on a 350-mile side trip from Yellowstone National Park to Glacier National Park for a family reunion. Minear went along for the ride. Prior to moving to Spartanburg, the Vangsnes family lived in North Dakota.

Members of both the Minear and Vangsnes families immediately flew to Montana and are "strong Christian families who are holding up well," Lartigue noted.

The Vangsnes brothers were nominated as Innovator missionaries by the NAMB, while Minear's appointment came through Georgia Baptist Campus Ministries.

The Vangsnes brothers and Minear were four of 17 Innovator missionaries who arrived at Yellowstone National Park on Memorial Day Weekend to minister to resort visitors for 10 weeks, Lartigue said. They were slated to return home Aug. 3.

"The other (Innovator missionaries) are doing fine. ...I'm trying to reassure them," said Lartigue, who acknowledges that his own emotions have been on a rollercoaster since the accident. "I'm strong in my faith and I know God's in control, but at times over the last few days I have been overwhelmed."

Morris H. Chapman, presi-



INJURED — The Vangsnes brothers (from left) Dan, Ryan, and Jeremy are three of the four North American Mission Board Innovator student resort missionaries involved in a vehicle accident near Belgrade, Mt., on July 21. Dan and Jeremy Vangsnes remain hospitalized in Billings, Mt., along with the driver of the vehicle, Scott Minear. (BP photo)

dent of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, made a surprise visit to the Billings hospital yesterday, Lartigue added. Chapman, who was vacationing nearby, said he learned of the accident via his BlackBerry and the Southern Baptist Convention website.

Dennis Culbreth, senior assistant to NAMB president Geoff Hammond, immediately flew to Montana upon receiving word of the accident. NAMB is based in Alpharetta, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta.

"The Montana Baptist Convention is doing a great job of making every effort to help these two families," Culbreth said. "The spirits of the two families are good. They're praying for a miracle for Jeremy."

The brothers' parents, Mark and Kathy Vangsnes, are members of First Church in Spartanburg, S.C. Minear's parents, Frank and Terry Minear, are members of Crosspointe Community Church, a Southern Baptist

congregation in Roswell, Ga.

"I told the parents that the entire NAMB family and Southern Baptists everywhere are praying for their sons," Culbreth said.

Echoing Lartigue, Culbreth said he visited with the other Innovator student missionaries at West Yellowstone Park. "They're in good spirits and praying for a miracle for Jeremy," he said.

The 13 other student missionaries are already using the tragedy to share Christ with tourists at nearby Yellowstone National Park. Culbreth said the Innovators crafted posters on Thursday night with photos of Jeremy, Scott, and Dan, and displayed them at Yellowstone, asking passersby to pray for their three friends.

"When tourists would come by and ask questions," Culbreth said, "the students would use the accident to remind people that 'you don't know how long you have or what's coming down the road. Do you know Christ?'"

Looking back

Mississippi missionary Alicia L. Ham, a Southern Baptist International Service Corps missionary in Zimbabwe, is acquitted of culpable homicide stemming from a July 16, 1983 automobile accident.

A dispute continues over the election of Gulf Coast pastor Gregg Martin to the SBC Home Mission Board. The two Mississippians who served on the nomination committee claim their nominee was replaced by Martin just before the convention in Las Vegas.

W.C. Fields, former editor of The Baptist Record, begins work as Public Relations Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Christians killed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Islamic militants in Somalia have killed eight Christians this year, along with two sons of a Christian leader, according to reports by Reuters Africa and Compass Direct News. Nine of the 10 victims were beheaded, according to the reports. The killings stem from the push by extremist al Shabaab insurgents to topple Somalia's West-leaning transitional government and to enforce sharia (Islamic) law in areas they control in the African nation's capital, Mogadishu, and in southern Somalia, according to the reports. Apart from the 10 killings, neither Reuters nor Compass speculated on the overall scope of mayhem being directed at Somalia's Christians, who comprise less than one percent of the nation's 9.8 million people. Compass did state, however, that al Shabaab, buttressed by foreign fighters reportedly with ties to al-Qaida, is monitoring converts from Islam and is intent on "cleansing" Christians "especially [from areas] where Christian workers had provided medical aid" through a former Christian-operated hospital. Compass also reported that Islamic extremists raped a 40-year-old mother of 10 children and her 23-year-old pregnant daughter as they were gathering firewood in April 2008 in the Lower Juba region of Somalia. The two women were abducted and held for five days before being left for dead. The mother told Compass that the baby born to her daughter suffers from prenatal trauma. Last November, militants shot the 28-year-old son of another Christian leader and left him for dead on the outskirts of Mogadishu, Compass reported.

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NAYK AX ITF PAYK, TAN
ITSI TF RSQK, ZATG
QGKFFK USOIQCFK
NQIT NSIFY; UDI WF
RTSPP UF USOIQCFK
NQIT ITF TAPW MTARI.
SEIR FPFBFQ: RQLIFFG

Clue: M = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three: Twelve

TIME RESTRAINTS ON WORSHIP SERVICES

Let me clearly state upfront that I know we should not put restraints on God. It is certainly arguable that we need to have time to allow God to speak to us and allow us to speak to Him. As a general rule, we mark off about an hour, maybe an hour and fifteen minutes, to allow everything to be done that we need to do for God and that He needs to do for us. I have found that people are somewhat flexible and will tolerate a little bit of give and take. Sometimes they just cannot take anymore. It is not only at church. The problem is that our lives are so filled with deadlines, schedules, and activities that we have other things that we need to get to that require us to stay close to a timeframe.

I have been in worship services that went well beyond what I had expected, and I became restless at least in my spirit knowing that I had to get to another service or possibly a funeral. I was not trying to limit God, but I was on a limited time schedule. The majority of folks who are in the service are likely the same way, so we need to be mindful and not infringe upon them beyond reason. Frankly,

sometimes we just go too long. Sometimes it is the music. Sometimes it is the preaching. Sometimes it is the announcements. Sometimes it is the special emphasis that is taking place, but regardless, it is too much.

I recently heard about a church that had just gotten a new pastor. Everybody was so excited. He was such a fine man, a great preacher of the Word, and the services were filled with electricity. One lady whose husband never went to church kept encouraging him to go to church with her to hear the new pastor. Her husband was not a Christian and was a non-church attendee, but finally he agreed to go. This fellow was well known in the community because of his business, and everybody welcomed him to the service.

The worship service began and went on and on. Finally, the preacher moved to the

pulpit. He began preaching and preaching and preaching - 40 minutes, 50 minutes, and he was still going strong. As the sermon approached an hour, the fine old country gentleman quietly got up from his seat, turned, walked up the aisle, out the door, and to the car. When the service was over, his wife made her way out to the car to check on him, and there he sat. She said, "Are you okay?" He said, "Yeah, I am fine." She said, "I thought maybe you got sick and had to get up and leave." He said, "No, I am not sick." She said, "Well why did you get up and leave the service?" He looked at her and said, "I ain't no hog, and I had enough." That was the end of the conversation.

For those of us who believe in the power of the Word of God we can argue that maybe he was getting under conviction or maybe he really needed what was being presented.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

In reality, I know of very few people who only stop and eat one time a day. The problem with that is that you cannot take in enough food and fluids to maintain you for a 24-hour period without having periodic eating experiences. For the pastor there is the dilemma of a moment in time and having a sense of urgency that this may be the moment of truth for someone. We seek to bring that to bear in his or her life by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Some of us have seen occasions where God took less and did more. Sometimes a passionate, caring, abbreviated moment can have more impact than an endless proclamation. For those of you who have heard me preach, you probably recognize that I am writing this article to me more than to you or anyone else. May God give us opportunity to stand up, plus the insight to speak up, and the wisdom to shut up in the appropriate timeframe.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.



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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Murphy Creek, Louisville:** Revival, Aug. 2 - 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Charlie Cooper, speaker; Scott Gregory, music; Walter Simmons, pastor.

2. **Little Bahala Church, Lincoln County:** Homecoming and revival, Aug. 9 - 12; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert (Bob) Hanvey, speaker.

3. **Holcomb Church, Holcomb:** Revival, Aug. 2 - 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kevin Jackson, speaker; Jackie Johnson, music.

4. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch:** Homecoming, Aug. 9; service, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and singing with the Geeslin Brothers; Robert Dottle, speaker.

5. **Brush Creek Church, Walnut:** Revival, Aug. 2 - 7; Sun., regular time; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Charles Stephenson, speaker.

6. **Valley Park Church, Valley Park:** 85th anniversary, Aug. 2; services, 10:30 a.m., followed

by dinner on the grounds; Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m., lighting of luminaries in memory of loved ones.

7. **White Oak Church, Smith County:** Revival, Aug. 2 - 5; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; G.A. McCoy, speaker; Curtis Carver, music.

8. **Pleasant Hill Church, Lincoln County:** Homecoming and revival, Aug. 2; Sun., 10:15 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Chad Douglas, music.

9. **Society Hill, Oakvale:** Revival, Aug. 2 - 7; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Nathan Barber, speaker; Eddie Myers, pastor.

10. **Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City:** 117th homecoming, Aug. 9; services, 9:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 2 p.m.; Al Homer, speaker; Linda Carley Johnson, music; Daryl Oster, pastor.

11. **Magee's Creek Church, Jayess:** Homecoming, Aug. 9, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and gospel singing, 1

p.m.; Jimmy Smith, speaker; Wayne and Linda Stringer, music.

12. **Concord Church, Little Yazoo:** Homecoming and revival, Aug. 2 - 5; Sun., worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rickie Gray, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Thomas R. Arinder, pastor.

13. **Bethel Church, Oxberry:** Revival, Aug. 5 - 9; 7 p.m. nightly; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by a covered dish lunch.

14. **Harland Creek Church, Lexington:** Revival, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 7 p.m.; Gordon Coker, Joe Cook, Dennis Herrington, Ivan Parke, and Gene Richardson, speakers; Roger Richardson, pastor.

15. **Calvary Church, Canton:** Revival, Aug. 2 - 5; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. nightly; fellowship Wed. after services; John G. McCall, speaker; Barry and Elaine Pounds, music; Tom Rayburn, pastor.

16. **Enon Church, Golden Triangle:** Revival, Aug. 9 - 12; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, speaker; Arthur Parker, music; Larry W. Haggard, pastor.

17. **Sardis Church, Smith County:** Homecoming and revival, Aug. 2 - 5; Sun., 10:30 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bruce Cappleman, speaker.

18. **First Church, Overt:** Homecoming, Aug. 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Glenn Jones, pastor.

19. **New Home Church, Bay Springs:** Homecoming, Aug. 9; worship, 11 a.m., followed by meal and gospel singing; Sidney Davis, pastor and speaker; Stubborn Love, music.

20. **Star Church, Star:** Revival, Aug. 2 - 5; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Travis Gray, speaker; Eric McNair, music.

21. **Oak Grove Church, Simpson Association:** Revival, Aug. 5 - 9; Wed. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Sun., the 9th, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Hubert Greer, speaker; Bob Harris, music; Millard D. Mackey, pastor.

22. **Rocky Springs Church, Yazoo Association:** Revival, July 31, Aug. 1, 7 p.m.; homecoming, Aug. 2, 11 a.m. with dinner on the grounds; Danny Duggan, speaker; Van Foster and Allan Campbell, music.

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Webcast: health care reform could include abortion

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — When Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-Cal.) equated abortion to having one's tonsils removed during remarks in a U.S. House of Representatives committee hearing, she struck at the heart of pro-life fears over the new health care reform bill making its way through Congress.

The bill, argue abortion opponents, would establish abortion as an essential medical procedure to be subsidized by tax dollars, leading to situations in which those who find abortion abhorrent would be paying for women to terminate their pregnancies.

That is why pro-life leaders and Americans from around the country gathered online July 23 for a national webcast called Stop the Abortion Mandate, to express their opposition to the proposed legislation.

The webcast featured 19 pro-life leaders including Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, who warned about the dangers of the House bill. Over 36,000 people, apparently more than organizers expected, logged on to view it.

Washington bureaucrats and pro-abortion lobbyists are working to hijack and exploit the health care debate in an attempt to impose their radical abortion agenda," said David Bereit, national director of 40 Days for Life, which organized the event. "We felt it was important for people of faith

and conscience to come together as a united front to stop this abortion mandate in its tracks."

During the congressional committee hearing, Woolsey, who is pro-choice, expressed frustration that coverage of abortion was even being debated, noting that the procedure was legal. "We're not talking about having your tonsils out and whether you can or can't," she said.

While the health care bill says nothing about whether abortion must be included as part of coverage, that is exactly the problem, said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. "You have to realize that unless Congress specifically prohibits tax funding of abortion, it's going to be in the plan," he said.

Tony Perkins is not related to William H. Perkins, Jr., editor of The Baptist Record.

The legislation calls on a health advisory committee, appointed by pro-abortion U.S. President Barack Obama, to determine what benefits must be included in the health plans. Pro-life leaders foresee a grim certainty that Obama will ensure abortion is included, based on the president's previous comments to pro-abortion advocates.

Indeed, when Obama spoke at the Planned Parenthood Action Fund in July 2007, he said, "In my mind, reproductive care is essential care, basic care, so it is at the center, the heart of the plan that I propose." He also told Planned Parenthood that "insurers are

going to have to abide by the same rules in terms of providing comprehensive care, including reproductive care," a clear sign to many that Obama plans to expand abortion to all health care plans, including those subsidized by tax dollars.

Land warned of high stakes in the ongoing debate. "They're going to take money from our pockets and force us to take part in health insurance programs that will subsidize and underwrite the baby-killing industry," he said. "This will lead to the deaths of millions of unborn children and the wounding of mothers. This is the big one."

Land railed against the prospect of citizens being forced to fund practices they consider sinful. "Thomas Jefferson once said, 'To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical,'" Land said.

Tony Perkins warned that "the moral and ethical dangers that are contained in this plan are downright frightening." According to Perkins, under the proposed plan, if a church's tithes are used to purchase health insurance for its pastor or staff, those funds would purchase a plan that requires abortion coverage, thereby enriching abortion providers.

"The church will then be subsidizing Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry," he said. "I don't know about you, but to me, there's something wrong with that picture."

In a pre-recorded segment, James Dobson, founder and chairman emeritus of Focus on the Family, warned that the bill, which Perkins labeled the "Planned Parenthood bailout bill," would deal a heavy blow to the pro-life cause by flushing abortion providers with federal cash.

"If Obama's health care bill is passed, taxpayer funded abortions will be reality," Dobson said. "If that happens, the pro-life cause will be set back years. This health care bill will force taxpayers to fund a huge abortion industry bailout."

Efforts to explicitly exclude abortion from any government-subsidized health plan are currently underway in Congress, spearheaded by pro-life Democrats and like-minded Republicans.

In a June 25 letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Cal.), 20 Democratic representatives warned, "We cannot support any health care reform proposal unless it explicitly excludes abortion from the scope of any government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan."

Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life, praised their efforts when she spoke during the webcast. "I'm so proud of pro-life Democrats who are really putting up a tough fight," she said.

Other legislators who did not sign the letter have expressed similar sentiment, and their pressure may finally be coming to bear. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Cal.) reportedly is trying to forge a compromise to avoid derailing the health care bill completely.

Land urged pro-life Americans to hand-write and deliver letters opposing the current bill to their representatives and senators, noting a Zogby poll that showed 71% of Americans are opposed to government-funded abortions.

"It is time for us to insist and demand on government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and stop this (health care reform bill) cold."

Webcast organizers encouraged listeners to visit stoptheabortionmandate.com/action to follow up on their concerns about the health care reform bill.

A replay of the health care webcast is available at <http://www.stoptheabortionmandate.com>.

NOBTS to offer bivo music courses

The first of eight courses for bivocational ministers of music will begin August 17 at seven locations in Mississippi, sponsored by New Orleans Seminary and the seminary's Providence Learning Center.

The first course, Song Leading, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- Broadmoor Church, Madison, beginning August 17 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher (601) 924-1233.
- First Church, Booneville, beginning August 18 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher (662) 728-6272.
- Northcrest Church, Meridian, beginning August 17 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher (601) 938-8668.
- First Church, Greenwood, beginning August 18 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Barry Bouchillon, teacher (662) 897-3075.
- Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, beginning August 17 (7-9 p.m.). Mark Hamilton, teacher (601) 894-5848.
- First Church, Lyman, beginning August 18 (7-9 p.m.). Louis White, teacher (228) 832-2159.
- First Church, Louisville, beginning September 5 (8

a.m.-noon). Billy Bowie, teacher (662) 773-6246.

Information on the course may be obtained by contacting the teachers listed above, or by contacting Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

In addition to Song Leading, the courses in the cycle are Worship Planning; Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; Hymnology; Music Administration/Staff Relations; Survey of Church Music Resources; and Class Voice.

The eight courses, scheduled over a two-year period, are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches. The courses meet two hours per week and are eight weeks in length. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a certificate from the Providence Learning Center of New Orleans Seminary.

There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$125.00. A

\$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

STAFF CHANGES

1. South Louisville Church, Louisville, has called Trent Jaudon as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Susan, and daughters, Brianna and Brittany.



1. The Jaudons

Mississippi Baptist Minister Hosts

Hawaii

Join Other Southern Baptists and Rev. Billy Williams
On His Sixth YMT Baptist Vacation Package!

Departs April 19, 2010 from \$1528*

Fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two nights on Maui, one night in Hilo and three nights in Kona, on the "big island" of Hawaii. Devotions will be available some days on tour, for those in the group who wish to participate. Sightseeing on every island includes: a Honolulu city tour with Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial; Kauai's Waialeale riverboat cruise; Iao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina on Maui; and on the Big Island-of-Hawaii, a Hilo orchid garden, Rainbow Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more! YMT specializes in Hawaii and has had its own office in Honolulu since 1967. Prices are so affordable because travelers buy wholesale, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. Rev. Williams is semi-retired and has been serving for 49 years as a Baptist minister, 23 years of which he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Gautier, Mississippi. Currently he attends and is active in Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi. Friends and family are welcome! One does not have to be Baptist to join this group. Flights are available from throughout the United States. *Price, per person, double occupancy, includes taxes, inter-island flights, hotels, baggage handling, and escorted sightseeing on every island. Airfare is extra; call for prices.

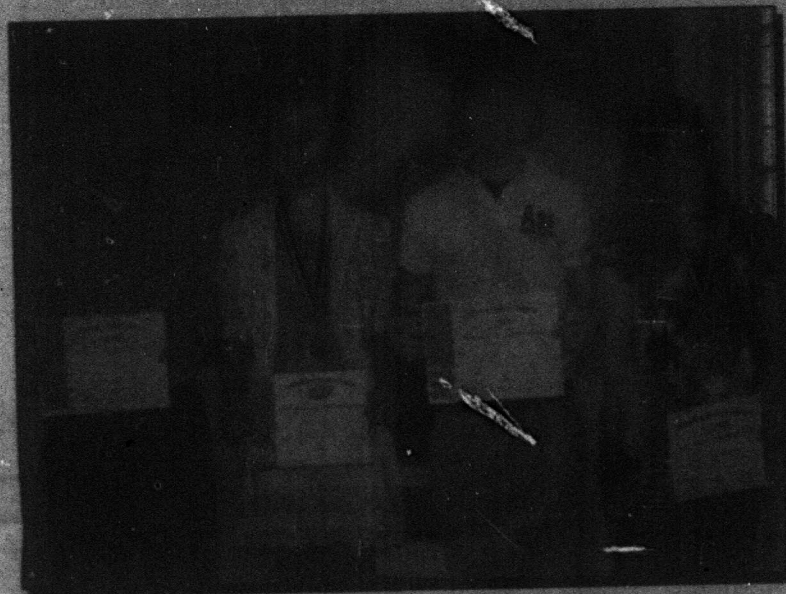
For brochure, info, reservations,
and letter from Pastor Williams, call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

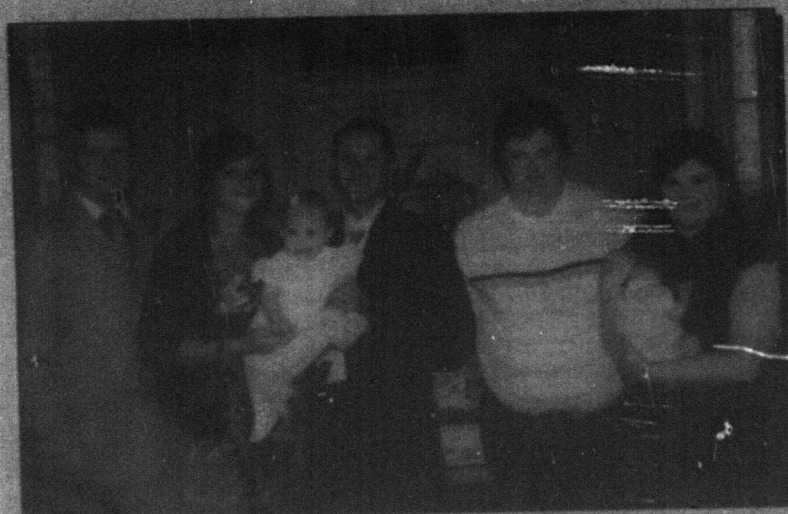
JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. North Columbia Church, Columbia



3. First Church, Itta Bena, Bible drillers



4. First Church, Itta Bena, baby dedication



5. Magnolia Church, Laurel

1. Cleary Church, Florence, will hold a gospel dinner show Aug. 8 with performances by Redemption Quartet, Song of Grace, Eternity Trio, and Big Earl from Pearl. Tickets for dinner and show are \$20/adults and \$5/children, and must be purchased by Aug. 2. For more information, call (601) 845-2020 or visit www.clearybaptist.org.

2. North Columbia Church, Columbia, recently recognized their Acteens and GAs. Kay Bennett, speaker. Shown are the participants.

3. First Church, Itta Bena, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Anthony Bobbitt, Luci Makamson, Alex Fulgham, and Morgan Smith.

4. First Church, Itta Bena, held a Mother's Day baby dedication service. Shown are pastor Ren Smith; Anna Douglas Clark with her parents, Carmen and Doug; and Luke Thomas Mueller with his parents, Kendall and Courtney.

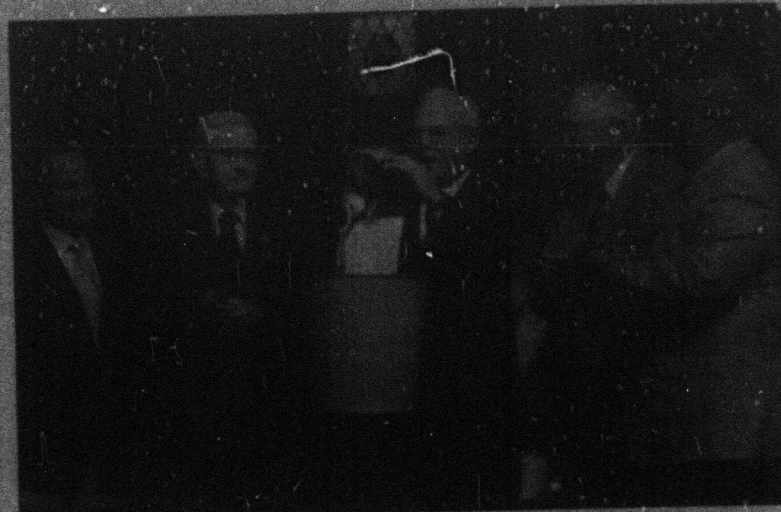
5. Magnolia Church, Laurel, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are leader Gail James, Bailey Sullivan, Lacie Knight, and Reid Temple, along with pastor P.J. Weeks.

6. Brandon Church, Brandon, celebrated the payoff of their building loan with a note-burning ceremony and ice cream fellowship May 31. Shown are Steve Harrell, Hayes Graves, pastor Clarence Cooper, Rodney Joyner, and Robert May.

7. Glendale Church, Leland, ordained Gary Petty and Michael Prestridge as deacons July 12. Shown are Judy Petty, Petty, pastor Dick Hill, Prestridge, and Susan Prestridge.

8. Church Road Church, Horn Lake, held a baby dedication June 28. Shown are Stephen and Heather Mobley with Colton; Reggie and Kayla Love with Makenzy; Kristie Refeld with Elizabeth; David and Christy Maxey with Caden; and Kenny and Jenna Glover with Daisee.

9. Shiloh Church, Big Creek, licensed David Martin to the gospel ministry June 28. Shown are Martin and Johnny Hearn, pastor. Martin and his wife Teresa are in charge of the children's church ministries.



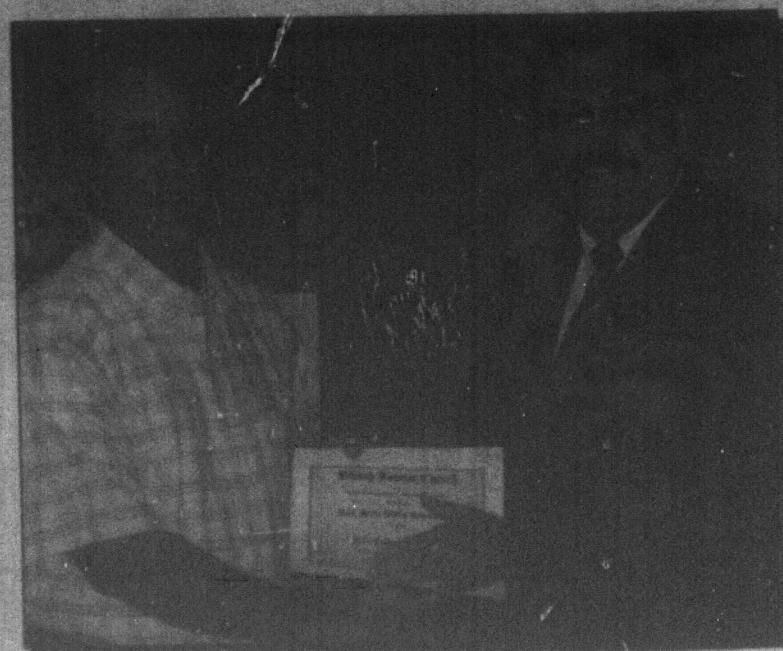
6. Brandon Church, Brandon



7. Glendale Church, Leland



8. Church Road Church, Horn Lake



9. Martin and Hearn

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Silver City Church, Humphreys County

10. Silver City Church, Humphreys County, held its 75th anniversary service May 31. Shown are former pastors Billy Floyd, Gary Reichenbach, current pastor Tony Blanchard, and Bryan Abel. Reichenbach is holding a time capsule buried 25 years ago.

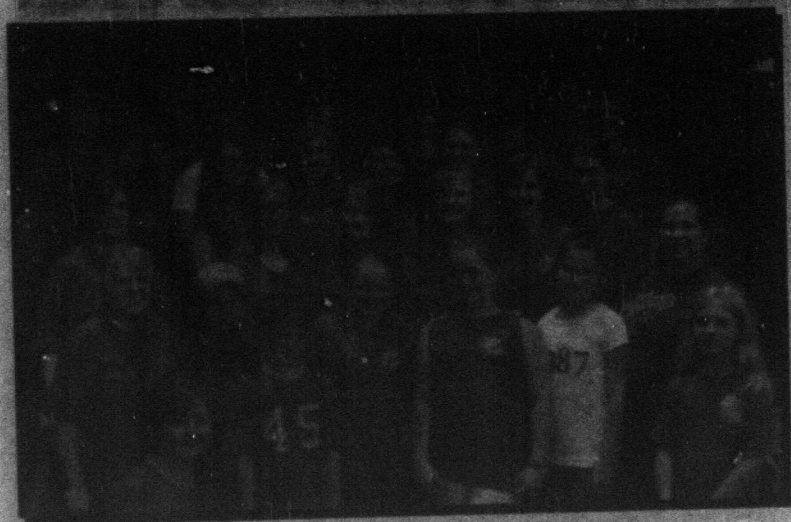
11. Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, retired a \$200,000 debt on their educational facility earlier this year. Shown are pastor Bobby Holder, Ernest Lott, Linda Hudson, Lee Oswalt, and Karen Mims.



11. Dixie Church, Hattiesburg

12. Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine, held a DiscipleNow Weekend for youth June 13. Shown are the participants.

13. Children from Whitesand Church, Prentiss, recently attended camp at Shocco Springs near Talladega, Ala. Those attending were Anna Belle Stewart, Janie Parish, Sam Burnham, Austin Daughdrill, Wesley Daughdrill, LeeAnn Stewart, Colby Stewart, Allison Daughdrill, and Wes Daughdrill. Shown are the participants.



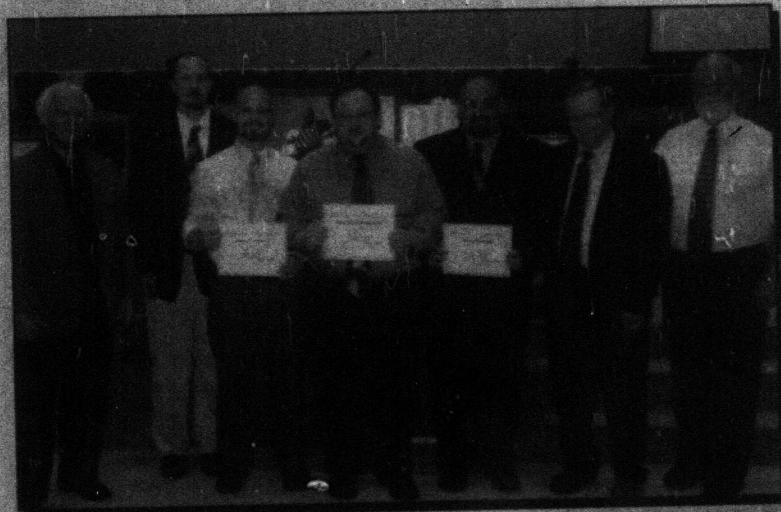
12. Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine

14. Pheba Church, Pheba, held a new building dedication and ribbon cutting June 14. Shown are Dan Robertson, Jim Futral, Ted Walker, Bob Bates, Danny White, Pastor Terry Rhodes, Karen Walker, Merline White, Brenda Washington, and Becky McNeel.

15. Calvary Church, Petal, ordained three deacons May 24. Shown are Chuck Geary, Charles Tweedy, new deacons Eric Hudson, Bobby Stewart, and Shaun Montague; pastor Terrell Stringer, and Body Tweedy.



14. Pheba Church, Pheba



15. Calvary Church, Petal

16. At the executive board meeting of the Pearl River Association, AMD Carl Myers presented Rusty Kuhn, pastor of New Life Church, their church property deed. Shown are Bobby Stewart, James Dearman, Jr., Myers, Kuhn, and Clarence Perrett.

17. The men and boys of Hebron Church, Bentonia, recently held a father-son racer night. Shown are the participants.



16. New Life Church, Pearl River Association



13. Whitesand Church, Prentiss



17. Hebron Church, Bentonia



SBC annual meeting shows rises, drops in age groups

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Official registration figures for the 2009 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., have been released by SBC registration secretary Jim Wells.

A total of 8,795 messengers were sent by 3,642 churches from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Last year's SBC registration total for Indianapolis was 7,277.

While attendance was up significantly among the 35- to 39-year-old demographic, it was down in the 45-49 and 55-59 categories and up among those 60 and over.

Kentucky Baptists had the

largest number of messengers, 1,680, at the June 23-24 meeting at the Kentucky Exposition Center, accounting for 23.6% of the registration total. The next four leading states in messenger count were Tennessee, 805 messengers (11.3% of the total); Georgia, 730 (10.3%); North Carolina, 537 (7.5%); and Alabama, 526 (7.4%).

Official state-by-state registration numbers were: Alaska, 8; Alabama, 526; Arkansas, 239; Arizona, 21; California, 122; Colorado, 25; Connecticut, 3; District of Columbia, 13; Delaware, 4; Florida, 393; Georgia, 730; Hawaii, 20; Iowa, 13; Idaho, 4; Illinois, 287;

Indiana, 347; Kansas, 53; Kentucky, 1,680; Louisiana, 210; Massachusetts, 2; Maryland, 86; Maine, 1; Michigan, 62; Minnesota, 7; Missouri, 354; Mississippi, 422; Montana, 2; North Carolina, 537; Nebraska, 5; New Hampshire, 1; New Jersey, 7; New Mexico, 23; Nevada, 25; New York, 35; Ohio, 249; Oklahoma, 204; Oregon, 5; Pennsylvania, 41; Puerto Rico, 2; South Carolina, 414; South Dakota, 6; Tennessee, 805; Texas, 389; Utah, 4; Virginia, 313; Vermont, 5; Washington, 12; Wisconsin, 4; West Virginia, 66; and Wyoming, 9. No messengers registered from North Dakota or Rhode Island.

By gender, 61.5% of the 8,795 messengers were male; 38.5% were female.

According to data from 846 messengers who provided additional information during the registration process, messengers ages 18-29 accounted for 5.6% of the total; ages 30-34, 5.2%; ages 35-39, 8.2%; ages 40-44, 6.1%; ages 45-49, 8.4%; ages 50-54, 15.2%; ages 55-59, 16.8%; ages 60 and over, 34.5%.

The age categories that showed the most dramatic changes over the 2008 meeting were 35-39, up from 5.5%; 45-49, down from 13.1%; 55-59, down from 18.9%; and 60 and over, up from 31.2%.

By vocation, according to the data compiled from the 846 messengers, 44.8% were senior pastors; 10.9% were homemakers; 11% were other church staff; 4.1% worked in associational missions; 3.5% were state convention, entity or institution staff members; 1.8% were other denominational employees; 1.5% worked in evangelism; 1.9% were seminary students; 2.7% were involved in North American or international missions; and 17.7% percent listed "other."

For 165 of the 846 messengers, the convention in Louisville was their first SBC annual meeting, or 19.5% of the total; 214 had attended an SBC meeting five times or less, or 25.3%; 166 had attended six to 10 times, 19.6%; and 301 had attended 11 or more times, 35.6%.

In traveling to Louisville, 82.4% of the 846 messengers came by car; 15.2% by plane. In terms of expenditures to attend the annual meeting, 51 of the 846 estimated they would be spending under \$100, six percent; 78 estimated \$100-299, 9.2%; 181 estimated \$300-599, 21.4%; 189 estimated \$600-999, or 22.3%; 204 estimated \$1,000-1,499, or 24.1%; 118 estimated \$1,500-1,999, 13.9%; and 25 estimated \$2,000 or more, 2.9%.

Of the 846 messengers who provided the additional information at registration, 271 said no other family members were with them in Louisville, or 32%; 433 brought one family member, 51.2%; 119 brought two to four family members, 14%; and 23 brought five or more family members, 2.7%.

Largest abortion group to get fed funds

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The U.S. House of Representatives defeated an effort July 24 to prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving funds under the federal government's family planning program.

Representatives voted 247-183 against an amendment that would have barred Title X money for the country's largest abortion provider. Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., sought to attach the amendment to a spending bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Affiliates of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) performed more than 305,000 abortions in 2007, the most recent year for which statistics are available. Planned Parenthood, the largest recipient of Title X funds, received more than \$349 million

in government grants and contracts during the financial year of July 2007 to June 2008.

The organization's total revenue was \$1.04 billion during that time period.

Before the vote on his amendment, Pence said on the House floor, "The largest abortion provider in America should not also be the largest recipient of federal funding under Title X, as I believe a majority of the American people would attest. The time has come to deny all federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America."

His amendment would not eliminate any funds for Title X, Pence told the House. He also contended Title X funds aid Planned Parenthood's abortion promotion and practice.

"I understand that current law and regulation [prevent] Title X funds from going direct-

ly to fund abortions," he said.

"...But there's no question that money that Planned Parenthood receives for its operational expenses from the federal government free[s] up resources that can be used to provide and promote abortions through its abortion clinics. Common sense teaches no other idea."

On the July 24 roll call, 20 Democrats voted with 163 Republicans in support of Pence's amendment. Nine Republicans joined 238 Democrats in opposition. The House later provided final passage of the spending bill in a 264-153 roll call.

Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson voted against Pence's defunding amendment, while Mississippi Congressmen Travis Childers, Greg Harper, and Gene Taylor voted in favor of the amendment.

THE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

FROM WILLOW CREEK

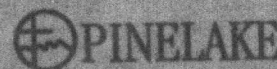
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Dr. Henry Cloud

OLD RICE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, Madison, MS is seeking a part-time youth director. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Old Rice Road Baptist Church, 82 Old Rice Road, Madison, MS 39110. Phone is (601) 853-7500. Submittal deadline is September 1, 2009.

PELAHATCHIE BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a part-time minister of music for worship services and adult choir. Please forward resume to the PBC search committee, attention: Due McKinion, P.O. Box 876, Pelahatchie, MS 39145, email due@rankincounty.org.

TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH OF JAYES, Miss., is searching for a part-time youth director. Send resume to Topeka Baptist Church, 807 China Grove Road, Jayes, MS 39641. Phone is 601-587-4195.

ROXIE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a part-time (Sundays) music minister. Please send resume to: Lisa Smith, P.O. Box 418, Roxie, MS 39661 or contact lisaajane@msbaptist.com. Phone is 601-322-9011. Deadline for submitting is August 1, 2009.

EBK, HORN LAKE, MISS. is seeking resumes for a senior pastor, no later than August 31, 2009. Please mail to 3505 Goodman Road, Horn Lake, MS 38637.

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, Greenville, Miss., is seeking God's man for our Senior Pastor position. We are a contemporary styled Southern Baptist church in the heart of the Delta. Send resumes to Cecil Carter, 235 Possum Ridge Road, Hollandale, MS 38748-3756.

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

1. Fellowship Church, Adams-Union Association: June 27; shown are the children and workers.
2. Enon Church, Grenada: July 6 - 10; shown are some of the participants in the craft class.
3. Dixie Church, Hattiesburg: July 6 - 10.
4. South Louisville Church, Louisville: June; shown are some of the participants.
5. Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora: Shown are the participants.
6. First Church, Amory: June 1 - 5; 150 average attendance; four decisions for Christ.
7. Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City: July 10 - 12.
8. Liberty Church, Carroll Association: Shown are the participants.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

1. Fellowship Church, Adams-Union Association



2. Enon Church, Grenada



4. South Louisville Church, Louisville



5. Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora



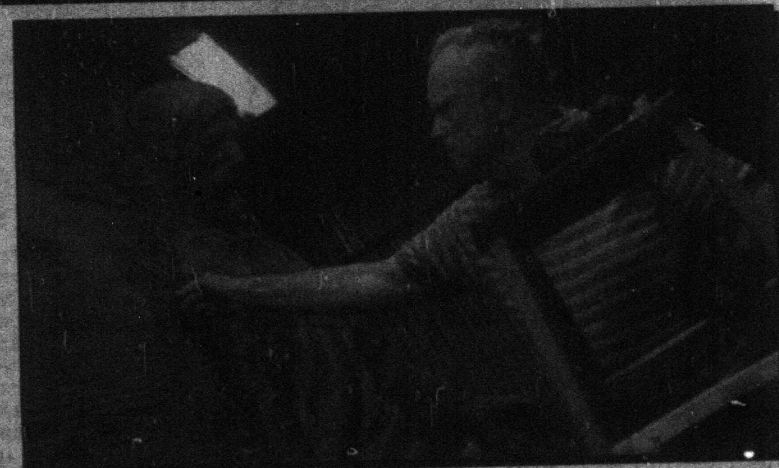
6. First Church, Amory



8. Liberty Church, Carroll Association

COLLEGE AND SEMINARY NEWS

1. The Mississippi College School of Law hosted the dedication of Sam Gore's sculpture of Jesus and His disciples June 17. The 3000-pound, 12-foot bronze sculpture is on display on an exterior wall of the downtown Jackson law school and is a companion piece to Gore's "Moses the Lawgiver." Shown is Gore at work on the sculpture.



1. Gore

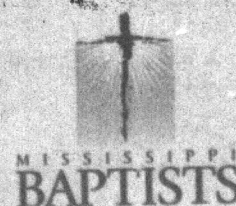
2. Blue Mountain College athletics director Lavon Driskell, right, welcomed Kevin Barefield, left, and Curt Fowler to the Toppers coaching staff. Barefield will coach softball and Fowler baseball when BMC begins intercollegiate competition in 2010 - 2011.



2. Barefield, Fowler, and Driskell

3. New Orleans Seminary will offer a full slate of classes at its four Louisiana extension center campuses during the Fall 2009 semester. For information, locations, and registration, visit www.nobts.edu.
4. For the third consecutive year, Blue Mountain College has landed in the academic top 10 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics programs as recognized by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. The Lady Toppers, who compiled a 3.524 grade point during the 2008-09 season, finished eighth in the nation. BMC competes in the TranSouth Athletic Conference and is the only league team ranked among the top 25. The Lady Toppers are the only Mississippi team to be ranked in the top 25 in all of the divisions of the NCAA, NAIA and community and junior colleges.

5. Mississippi College graduate dean Debbie Norris has been named as one of Mississippi's 50 leading business women. The Mississippi Business Journal recently recognized her and 49 others for their distinguished service to the state.



5. Norris

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**GIFTS OF HONOR
AND MEMORY**

A portion of The Village Year is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals seek to pay tribute to others through this sensitive recognition of their helpful actions. This feature is especially designed to help you recognize and give appreciation to someone who has made a difference in your life.

JUNE 3 - JUNE 30, 2009

MEMORIALS

Irene McMinn
Mrs. Bertha Vickers
Dana Max McGibben
Mr. Mark Scooby
Mrs. Grace McMinn
Ms. Diane Defore
Mt. & Mrs. Jerry S. Lee
Cay McMurray
Sally & Tyce Buntz
Mrs. Neil McNeese
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry
Brinkfield
Mrs. Maggie McWhorter
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis
Buchanan
George West Miller
Mr. Atherton
Jeanie Mitchell
Mrs. B.
Eggenburg
Mrs. Harriet Irwin
Lew & Lucie Jayne
Tim & Linda Jayne
Ms. Jayne Myers
Bobby & Patsy Buxton
Bert Nease
Eugene Crossley
FBC Columbus
Douglas Neal
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry
Brinkfield
Cousin & Barbara Neal
Glenda & Jerry
Mr. Joe Peterson
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis
Buchanan
Mr. Bryant Palmer
Bill & Michelle
Mr. & Mrs. Michael
Bennett
Stanfield B. Calhoun
Eddie Smith
Mrs. Marie B. Eggen
Bill Peterson
Dungan Engineering
P.A.
Ronnie Philen
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Allen
Aunt & Sandra Polk
Glenda & Jerry Fry

Father of Carroll Polk
Glenda & Jerry Fry
Marguerite Pritchard
Ms. Julia C. Byrd
Gary & Sandra Mitchell
Nephew of Ken Quick
Glenda & Jerry Fry
Aunt of Chad Reed
Glenda & Jerry Fry

Each year The Baptist Children's Village cares for a large group of 300 children. Many of our basic needs (crayons, pencils, notebook, etc.) have been provided. These are our biggest needs now, to prepare the children for a new school year. Please give your help in meeting these needs!

School Uniforms \$20 ea. (\$100 to dress a
 child for a week)
 Backpacks \$28 ea.
 Pictures \$20 ea.
 Lunchboxes \$30 Jr. High and \$50 Sr. High
 Backpacks
 Binders
 Pencils
 Science Fair Boards
 Clorox Wipes
 409 Spray
 Hand Sanitizer

Karen Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Percy J.
Perler
Hoyt Rich
Dr. Randy Rich
Mother of Linda Ritchie
Ms. Suzanne Honea
Rev. Chester Roberts
Mrs. Allyne Statham
James Robert Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Mike
Lammons
Imogene Roper
Alene Henderson
Melessa McCain
Mrs. Mattie Powell
Rosenkrans
Mr. James C. Peay
James Rucker
Dorcas Class, Bowmar
BC-Vicksburg
Dr. Randy Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Darry C.
Crowell
Mr. Salasse
Rev. & Mrs. E. J.
Slonaker
Mrs. Ann Sanders
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Pat S. Sanders
Pauline Bagley
Mrs. Polly Morrow
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Pernel S. Sanders
Lynn & Mike
Harmount
Aunt of Martha Schaller
Glenda & Jerry Fry
Mr. Louis Scheider
Doris Floyd
Ms. Nancy Floyd
Patrick
Mrs. Helen Cooper Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E.
Breakfield
Bernie Smith
Dave & Judy Lacy
Mr. Lanie Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry E.
Breakfield
Robert Louis Smith
Ms. Thelma M.
Anderson
Mrs. Flora Smithhey
Jo & Jimmie Smithhey
Bill Smolten
Mrs. Addie M.
Holloway
Mrs. Mary Speed
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
W. L. Speed
Mr. & Mrs. Billy
Williams

Kenneth W. Statham, Sr.
Mrs. Allyne Statham
Helen Steele
Mrs. Nancy Shelton
Mrs. Eunice R. Stokes
Galilee BC - Gloster
Mrs. Fay B. Kaigler
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Temple BC
Zelma Till
Betty, Bobby & Randel
Ramsay
Ray N. Torrence
Mr. & Mrs. Larry
Richardson
Josephine Triggs
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A.
Smith
Mrs. Charlotte Tyler
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Jimmy Van, Sr.
Mrs. Camille C. Honea
Uncle of Charlie Vaughn
Glenda & Jerry Fry
John Wade
Nina J. Herbert
Rusty Sinn
Mrs. Gladys Waide
Mrs. Hiram Davis, Jr.

The Baptist Children's Village has openings for two Houseparent shifts for those who may be interested in joining The BCV ministry team.

For more information or to apply for a position, please contact Kathy Fleurnoy by email at kfleurnoy@charlottesvillechildrensvillage.com or call 601-664-8055.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Do You See the Big Picture?

1 Thessalonians 4:1-5; 5:15-22; 2 Peter 3:8-9

By Lori Clendinning

It's so hard to accept sometimes, that one sin isn't any greater than another. Yet, God sees all sin as the same. How can it be that "minor trifles" such as gluttony and gossip are just as bad as the "big-time sins" of adultery and murder? Yet, that is the big picture that God sees, but so many of us miss.

For example, what would be Sin #1 in church these days? Based on how quickly it spreads shock waves through the Baptist community: a pastor succumbs to temptation, leaving wife, family, and church to pursue a relationship with the other woman. Terrible? Yes. Sinful? Yes, but in God's big picture, gossiping about it is just as bad.

How broken up God's heart must be when He sees godly

people doing ungodly things. God's word says it is His will that everyone be saved from sin and that all believers live pure lives and pursue what is good for them and others.

When we seek the will of God, we typically are thinking about major decisions: Will I go to college and where? What career should I pursue? Will I marry, and to whom? We yearn to know God's will about these and other matters. Most of God's will is already revealed in the Bible: We must be saved, live pure and holy lives, and pursue what is good.

Jesus' return seems impending in 2 Peter. However, the apparent delay is due to God's desire that no one perish, but that everyone repent and be saved. God wants everyone to be saved. However, the big



Clendinning

picture shows that God has a different perspective on time. Seek to be patient and wait on His timing. Father knows best!

The delay in the Lord's coming provides awesome opportunity for evangelism.

We should look for those daily moments to share the Gospel with the unsaved. God will always arrange opportunities for us to share Him with those who don't know Him yet.

God wants all believers to be holy. His will for us also includes a commitment to moral purity. We need to build safeguards in our lives to avoid falling into immorality. This requires intentional thought on our parts.

For example, I know of one pastor who, very early in his ministry, set up distinct boundaries for his daily living. He vowed to never be alone with parishioners or staff members of the opposite sex. If he made a home visit and a

woman was there alone, he spoke to her from the yard or driveway instead of entering the house.

Likewise, he would not go to lunch or attend an event with his secretary or other female staff unless his wife or another male was along. He even had a window strategically placed in his church office door so that anyone could glimpse in and readily see him.

All these restrictions were placed so that he would not easily succumb to temptation, nor would he be subject to gossip among townspeople. In fact, to this day, knowing how stringent he was in these particular matters, I know that I would quickly dismiss any suggestion of immoral living about this man as pure rubbish.

Likewise, God wants all Christians to pursue good. In his letter to the Thessalonica church, Paul gave some specific examples of God's will, including the pursuit of what is good for others in our lives.

When we make a conscious decision to follow God's will, we will begin to see people in a new perspective.

In every situation we can be thankful for God's presence and for the divine purposes He is working to accomplish in our lives. We must avoid tempting situations and concentrate on obeying God's will.

In fact, by focusing on following God, we will be victorious over temptation. When it comes to living sinfully, God will always have something else for us to do. He will always provide a way of escape. When He does, take it!

And if, instead, you chose sin, stop where you are. Ask God for forgiveness, repent and get back on His path immediately. Embarrassing? Yes. Painful? Yes, but it is the way to right living and God's blessing.

This week, may we all keep our mouths closed to gossip and our eyes open to God!

Clendinning is a member of First Baptist Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Let's Be Fair

James 2:1-13

By Jim Burnett

It was Sunday morning just as Bible study was ending and worship would shortly begin that an elderly lady shuffled into our storefront foyer with the aid of a cane. She was poorly dressed and acting very confused. I watched intently and proudly, as one by one, church members, both men and women alike, interacted with this total stranger. They escorted her to the fellowship area for coffee and a snack. Then one of the ladies walked with her to the restroom. A man and wife invited the guest to sit with them and afterwards to go to lunch. Before the service ended, someone had slipped some money into her purse.

Little did I know at the time, but this woman was a plant, a set up. That's right, one of our members had enlisted her to

come and test our congregation's hospitality. As people were leaving, the actress walked up to me and handed me the money someone had given her and asked that I return it. As she placed the cash into my hands she looked me in the eye and said, pastor, I want you to know your church passed the test.

Ignore External

(James 2:1-4)

James reminds Christians to value every human being regardless of his or her age, race, wealth, health, hygiene, wardrobe, or lifestyle. The love of God must be inclusive of all. And when believers practice the love of God it will never be selective and qualitative. In other words, we will not use the externals utilized by the world to deem people worthy or worthless. We will consider everyone we look eyes with as



Burnett

precious and ones for whom Christ died.

Who of us has not felt the sting of partiality or favoritism in one way or another at one time or another? Perhaps it happened to you as a child. During recess, you were always the last one chosen for kick-

ball. After all, somebody had to be last, but why did it have to be you? Perhaps you experienced partiality as an adult. You were passed over for promotion because the CEO's nephew wanted that position. Whether young or old, discrimination can be painful. That is why James denounces favoritism and encourages Christians to love people unconditionally and equally.

Do you treat everyone fairly and favorably? Do you see all people made in God's image and eligible for God's love? Ask the Lord to help you evaluate your treatment of others. Is there any hint of contempt or condescension in your tone or attitude toward those who are a

different skin color, a different ethnic group, or of a lower socio-economical class than you? Conversely, are there people to whom you give preferential treatment because they have money, power, and prestige? James encourages us to treat everyone with dignity and respect, especially those of the household of God. In so doing we not only validate people's worth, but we honor God who created them.

Honor God's People

(James 2:5-7)

James in no way implies that God favors poor people over rich. But in the New Testament era, many believers had little to their names and consequentially, by the world's standards had a negative net worth. Thus, often they were treated as second-class citizens.

In the eyes of God, however, these poor Christians were precious human beings cherished and dearly loved. Therefore James warns against ignoring them or mistreating them, for they were children of God. And when you mess with God's children, you mess with God.

Paul learned this lesson from Jesus as he was in route to persecute Christians of Damascus: "He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'" (Acts 9:4 NIV).

Extend God's Love

(James 2:8-13)

James reminds us that when we love as Christ loves it is the end of favoritism and discrimination in every form and fashion. The royal law, as defined by Christ, included loving your neighbor as you love yourself. How much do we love ourselves? Usually two to three times a day we ingest food to ensure that our bodies are nourished. Daily we dress ourselves in a different outfit. At night we go to bed at a reasonable hour and sleep so that our bodies might be rested and refreshed. All this is done because we love ourselves. The challenge is demonstrating this same kind of love toward those who may not have food, clothing, shelter, etc.

Burnett is pastor of Willow Pointe Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Baptist Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST YOUTH NIGHT

July 17, 2009 – Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson

